

*Thaumaphrastus* can not positively be referred to the right one of the great Complexes on account of the absence of the posterior tarsi. The facies of the insect forbids its being placed in one of the heteromerous series unless it be the Tenebrionidae or Monommidae. It can not belong to the former on account of the open anterior coxal cavities, and besides, the antennae are evidently capitate as indicated by the presence of an oval depression on the anterior surface of the propleura in line with the antennal grooves.

In facies the species resembles *Aglenus* Gyll. of the Colydiidae and not at all in harmony with the Monommidae. It probably belongs to the Isomera, and here it is difficult to decide on the Series on account of the imperfect condition of the insect. It can with certainty be said not to belong to the Adephaga, Lamellicornia or Phytophaga. There remain then only the Clavicornia and Serricornia. The facies and structure affiliates the species with the Clavicornia, and yet it is in discord with all but possibly the Cryptophagidae and Colydiidae. It may belong to a different and closely related family or genus unknown to the North American fauna. The affinities will have to be determined by some student acquainted with the northern African or Mediterranean fauna. If the species should be already known, it is hoped that the present report will facilitate the recognition of this interesting blind beetle.

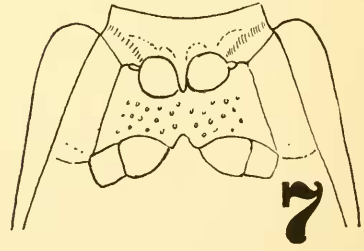
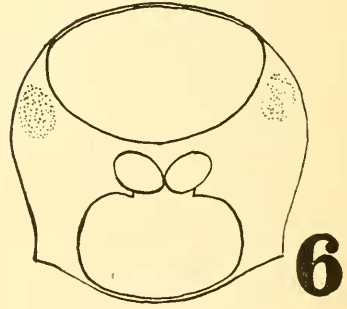
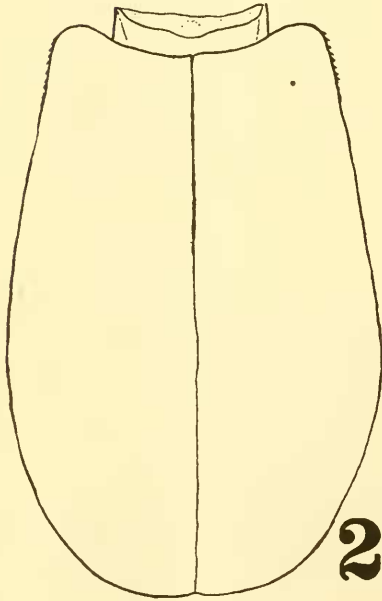
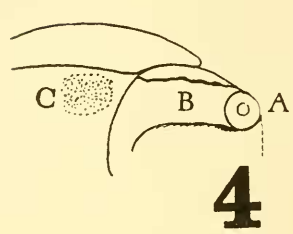
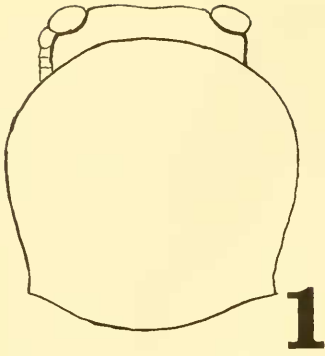
#### EXPLANATION OF THE FIGURES, PLATE 6.

1.—Dorsal view of pronotum and head; 2.—Dorsal view of the elytra; 3.—Anterior view of the head, showing the epistomal region and labrum; 4.—Diagrammatic side view of head and apical portion of the propleura, showing: (a) antennal fossa; (b) antennal groove and (c) position of the oval depression on propleura near apex; 5.—Anterior leg; 6.—Ventral view of the prothorax; 7.—Ventral view of the meso- and metathorax.

#### TWO NEW SPECIES OF HARMOLITA (HYMENOPTERA).

BY W. J. PHILLIPS, *Entomologist, Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture.*

This paper adds two species to the list of our North American jointworms. The genus *Elymus* incidentally is found to be the host for one of these. This genus is already by far the most favored group of host plants among our wild and cultivated grasses. The list of *Harmolita* now inhabiting our various species of *Elymus* is as follows: *H. ovata*, *H. hesperus*, *H. rufipes*, *H. elymi*, *H. elymoxena*, *H. elymophila*, *H. elymophthora*, *H. elymivora*, *H. elymicola*, *H. elymophaga*.



**Harmolita elymophaga**, n. sp.

*Female*.—Length 3 mm. The individuals of this species are slender. Praescutum rugulose; pronotum reticulate, shining, often with irregular, broad, shallow impression. Head broader than pronotum. Scutellum feebly rugulose, rather strongly convex and sparsely hairy. Pronotal spots dull and medium sized, occupying fully half of anterior dorsal margin of prothorax.

Propodeum with a distinct, broad, shallow, median, immargined, longitudinal groove at least in the anterior half; occasionally the groove is continuous but more often it fades out posteriorly. Propodeum most often somewhat granulose within and laterad of the groove. The propodeum is not so strongly rugose as in many other species, for example *H. tritici*.

When the specimen is viewed in lateral profile the abdomen is distinctly longer than the head and thorax combined. The abdomen is narrowly lanceolate. First tergite beyond the petiole comprising about one-fifth of the entire length of the abdomen; second tergite shortest, fourth the longest and three, five and six about the same length.

The legs are much darker in some specimens, varying from testaceous to almost pitchy black. Basal half of upper surface of front femora and all of the middle and hind femora testaceous to fuscous; sometimes the middle and hind femora quite black. Front tibiae and knees testaceous; middle and hind tibiae varying from testaceous to fuscous.

Antennae (Pl. 7, c) 11-jointed; club 3-jointed, its joints slightly wider than the preceding joints; first funicle and ring joint together about same length as pedicel. Usually none of the segments appear quadrate but some specimens show the fifth funicle and first club joints quadrate.

Forewings reach about to the tip of the abdomen; marginal vein twice as long as stigmal; postmarginal and stigmal vein about the same length.

Species small to medium in size.

*Male*.—Length 2.3 mm. Punctuation of thorax as in female. Pronotal spots large, occupying about half of anterior dorsal margin of the prothorax; spots dull.

Propodeum with a complete, margined groove; somewhat granulose within and laterad of the groove.

Petiole granulose; nearly twice as long as broad and nearly as long as the hind coxae.

Legs colored as in female but darker.

Antennae (Pl. 7, f): flagellum plus pedicel longer than head and thorax combined; hairs on the first joint of flagellum not quite half as long as the last antennal segment; last segment bearing a small tubercle which is about twice as long as broad. Scape, as seen in lateral profile, with a distinct shoulder at distal extremity; scape broadest at distal extremity and broader than flagellar segments. The first articulation of the flagellar joints has no annulations; the second articulation has one, and there are three at each of the other articulations.

Type locality, Lind, Washington.

*Type*.—Cat. No. 40416, U. S. Nat. Mus.

Described from twenty-six females bearing labels, "reared

from *Elymus condensatus* Presl. by M. C. Lane from Lind, Washington" and two males and one female bearing labels, "reared from *Elymus triticoides*, Bird's Landing, Cal., by B. G. Thompson."

This species perhaps comes nearer *H. festucae* than to any of our other species, but may be separated from it on the following characters: thorax not so coarsely rugulose, the abdomen stouter, and the propodeal groove not so strongly developed.

**Harmolita kingi**, n. sp.

*Female*.—Length 3.07 mm. The individuals of this species are rather stout. Praescutum rugulose; pronotum somewhat rugulose but more shiny than praescutum; scutellum rugulose, convex and sparsely hairy; pronotal spots very large, occupying two-thirds of anterior dorsal margin of the prothorax. Head broader than pronotum.

Propodeum with a narrow, deep, immargined, median, longitudinal groove, which is broader anteriorly; usually granulose laterad of groove though it may be very rugose laterad of the groove.

When viewed in lateral profile the abdomen looks shorter than the head and thorax combined, but by actual measurement it equals the head and thorax in length. Abdomen ovate; first tergite beyond the petiole between a fifth and a fourth the length of the abdomen; second tergite shortest; third, fifth and sixth about equal in length; fourth tergite longest; sometimes the second almost as long as third; sometimes the fourth tergite but little longer than the third, fifth or sixth.

Legs varying in color from fuscous to testaceous; basal half of upper surface of front femora, basal two-thirds of middle and hind femora and middle and hind tibiae fuscous; knees and front tibiae testaceous.

Antennae (Pl. 7, d.) 11-jointed; club 3-jointed and but little if any broader than the preceding segments. The first funicle plus the ring joint about same length as pedicel; usually none of the funicle joints are quadrate although occasionally a specimen shows the fifth funicle almost quadrate.

Forewings reaching very distinctly beyond the tip of the abdomen. Marginal vein twice as long as stigmal; postmarginal vein very slightly longer than stigmal.

Species medium in size.

*Male*.—Length 2.3 mm. Punctuation of the thorax same as in the female. Pronotal spots small to medium; spots dull.

Propodeum with a complete, margined groove; most often granulose laterad of groove.

Petiole granulose; about two-thirds as long as hind coxae; not twice as long as broad.

Legs colored as in female but considerably darker.

Antennae (Pl. 7, e): flagellum plus pedicel equal in length to head and thorax combined. Hairs on first flagellar joint about half as long as last joint of flagellum. The last segment of the antenna has no distinct tubercle, though it is drawn out at the tip, giving it quite a pointed appearance. Scape, as seen in lateral profile, with a pronounced shoulder near the distal extremity; scape broadest near the distal extremity and broader than the flagellar joints. There

is not more than one distinct annulation at any of the articulations of the flagellar joints and these are not always clearly defined.

Type locality, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Type.—Cat. No. 40417, U. S. Nat. Mus.

Described from 18 females and 12 males, reared, according to record on pins, from galls in the stems of *Hordeum jubatum* L. by Kenneth M. King, at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

This species perhaps comes nearer *H. ovata* than to any of our other species but may be separated from it on the following characters: legs darker; praescutum less coarsely sculptured; pronotal spots usually duller; propodeum more often granulose; flagellar joints not quadrate.

PLATE 7.

- a—Ovipositor of *Harmolita kingi*.
- b— “ “ *Harmolita elymophaga*.
- c—Antenna of female of *Harmolita elymophaga*.
- d— “ “ *Harmolita kingi*.
- e— “ “ male of *Harmolita kingi*.
- f— “ “ *Harmolita elymophaga*.

PROBLEMS IN TAXONOMY.

BY A. N. CAUDELL, *Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture.*

Dr. B. Uvarov, now of the British Museum, has written rather laudably of Francis Walker's works on the Orthoptera and rather disparagingly of that of the late Mr. Kirby.<sup>1</sup> This praise of the work of Walker seems worthy of being called to the attention of readers, for it is rarely indeed that one takes up the cudgel in defense of that prolific describer of species. But whether this praise is justifiable is at least debatable. The fact that Walker often gives wing length when he really means wing expanse, that he describes a Tettigoniid nymph as a short-winged species without an indication of its obvious immaturity, and his generally unsatisfactory descriptions, make this tardy praise of his work rather noteworthy. In addition to this Dr. Uvarov's somewhat severe criticism of the work of his predecessor, Mr. Kirby, makes his contribution worthy of consideration. That Kirby was a better compiler than a systematist is probably indisputable but that his Synonymic Catalogue of Orthoptera, which appeared almost half a century after Walker's death, has served to make the recognition of Walker's species more difficult seems doubtful. It is to be deplored, it is true, that Kirby did not more accurately place Walker's species of which the types were available, but in spite of this fault one can but admit that this

<sup>1</sup> Trans. Ent. Soc. London, p. 265, 1925.